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Perhaps there are many other joiners that can cut a mitre as true as I can without aids, but I have never met any of them.—NEWARK.

8. WARDROBE DESIGN.—I should be thankful if some of your readers would favor me with a design for a lady's wardrobe 3 feet wide and about 7 feet high. I should like it to have a nice panel door and a drawer below that can be drawn out without opening the door. I should like it also, if it could be so arranged, that the whole thing could be taken apart and put together without injuring it.—NED.

9. MOULDING CUTTERS.—I want to temper some moulding cutters for a "sticking machine;" what color should I leave the steel to insure them a good temper?—MOULDING MACHINE.

10. BRIDGING.—Is it better to bridge joists with "herring-bone bridging" than to fit solid plank with ends to joists between the floor timber?—SCRATCH-AWL.

11. GLUE.—How can mica be prepared so as to answer for glue? I can get plenty of mica where I am, and I am informed that a good glue can be manufactured from it, and what I want to know is how to prepare it?—TENN.

12. PAINTING.—1st. How can I estimate the amount of paint required to cover a building of a given size? 2d. How much lead is required to a given quantity of oil, or in what proportion used? 3d. How many yards of surface should a good man paint in a day? 4th. What is the average cost of good white lead and oil? 5th. What is the best kind of drier used for house-painting? I will be obliged to any of your readers who will kindly answer the foregoing questions through the WOOD-WORKER.—BOUND BROOK.

### Answers.

We wish it distinctly understood, that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the accuracy or reliability of answers furnished to this department by our correspondents.

We cordially invite our readers to take an active part in this department, as we are confident that much good can be accomplished by a free interchange of ideas and opinions in regard to subjects connected with the art of wood-working.

Many persons are afraid to write to a public journal because of their lack of literary attainments; to such we would say: Give us your ideas in such language as you can command, and leave the rest to us. It is ideas and opinions we want, such as may be of use to the hard-working man.

1. PLANE IRONS.—Butcher's plane irons are numbered 1, 2, 3, etc., to tell the sizes.—SQUARE.

1. PLANE IRONS.—I am informed that the numbers on Butcher's plane irons are the numbers of the men who make them. Thus No. 2 was forged by the man who is known

in the forging shop as No. 2, the number of the fire he worked at. By this method bad or defective irons can be traced to their makers.—SHEFFIELD.

2. PICTURE FRAMES.—Size joints with glue, then let dry, glue again, then put together and then brad for good work.—BRAD.

4. COMBINATION PLANES.—The Stanley Rule and Level Co. manufacture the best combination plane, but the best are scarcely worth chest room; when you go to buy, don't!—HARD CASE.

5. HARDWOOD PINS.—Use dry hickory, of course. Green hickory used for pins would "dose" and be worthless in twelve months.—MAINE.

### Japanese Houses.

THE Japanese houses are constructed in a very singular style—one peculiar to themselves—they build a house within a house.

Among the better classes the outer houses are generally built of stone, or of a bamboo frame-work, or lath, which is covered over with a thick and tenacious mud; this being covered with a coat of plaster is either painted in some sombre color or becomes bleached by exposure to the weather. Over the surface of the buildings mouldings are often arranged in diagonal lines, and these, when painted white, contrast with the dark background behind, and lend to the houses a curious piebald appearance. In the construction of the roofs colored tiles are used, alternately black or white; the eaves extend low down in front of the walls so as to form a protection to the inmates from the sun, and the oiled windows, made of paper, effectually keep out the rain. Besides these are movable shutters, which by night are secured to the posts which support the verandas.

The inner, or house proper, consists of a large frame-work raised a few feet above the ground, and is divided into several rooms by means of panels, which can be removed if necessary. The raised floor of the inner abode is covered with colored mats, made soft and thick by being lined with straw, and extend over the entire area of the house. The mats covering the floor are very neatly woven and bound with colored cloth, and as the law prescribes that they shall be of a uniform size, measure four by six feet each, and are placed upon the floor so carefully that they appear to be of one piece. The people sit upon these mats to eat their meals, converse with their friends and neighbors, and lie down at night to sleep, when a quilted mat for a covering, and a hard box for a pillow is provided.